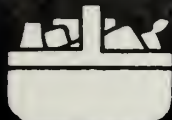


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# CONSUMER TIPS > >

## FACTS ABOUT BUYING COTTON WASH DRESSES

Information from Bureau of Home Economics, USDA)

GPO 16-19214

1. Shrinkage - facts should be on label of dresses, or on end of bolt of yard goods; get material marked "pre-shrunk - residual shrinkage not more than 1 or 2 percent" for protection against shrinkage.

2. Colorfastness - facts on label or end of bolt; for protection against fading, get material guaranteed color-fast to washing, sun, perspiration.

3. Crease-resistance - lessen wrinkling, helps garment keep shape, keeps clean longer, costs more; facts on end of bolt.

(over)

4. Fabric - better wear from cotton fabrics made of smooth yarns that don't fuzz; material should be firm both ways -- won't stretch out of shape; hold material up to light to check firmness of weave; check for sizing or other surface finish that will wash out.

5. Dress pointers - only enough seams for proper fit & style; seams firm, not bulky, finished according to type of material, about 15 stitches to inch; generous hems, first fold machine-stitched, hem blind-stitched; all facings fit, sewed flat; plackets ample; cuffs sewed on separately after sleeve seam is finished; trim should be attached to dress, easy to wash, iron; buttonholes firm, of colorfast thread, with close, even stitches, deep enough to prevent pulling out of fabric.

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